


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

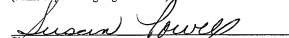
Applicants : Koichiro KISHIMA et al.  
Serial No. : 10/540,720  
For : METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR  
SUBSTRATE AND SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATE  
Filed : January 13, 2006  
Examiner : David Nhu  
Art Unit : 2818  
Confirmation No. : 2419

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2007, wherein  
"restriction to one of the following inventions" was required as follows:

Group I, claims 1-7 and 11-17, directed to the method of making a  
semiconductor substrate; and

Group II, claims 8-10 and 18-20, directed to the semiconductor substrate made by the method of the Group I claims.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I claims 1-7 and 11-17.

The claims of Groups I and II are related because they are directed to a product and the method of making that product. Historically, such claims had been permitted in a single application, with virtually no burden on the Office to examine such claims.

It is respectfully submitted that a search of the Group II claims would not present a burden. The class and subclass of the Group II claims should be searched when the claims of Group I are searched. Clearly, it would be inappropriate for the Examiner not to search the class and subclass which he noted are relevant for the Group II claims. The failure to search such class and subclass would, at best, result in an incomplete search of the prior art. Thus, a proper search by the Examiner should result in a search of both the Group I and the Group II claims of this application.

If the present requirement for restriction is maintained, the logical result will be the filing of a divisional application to include the Group II claims. Of course, this will mean that the examination of the Group II claims will be delayed. However, since the search for the claims included in the divisional application will overlap with and, in all probability, be identical to the search that is to be conducted on the Group I claims elected herein, the primary effort needed to examine all applications will be repeated. Furthermore, it is likely that the same Examiner will be in charge of the divisional case; but in light of the delay between the prosecution of the present application and that of the divisional application, the Examiner will have to conduct a duplicate, redundant search at a later time. Alternatively, if a different Examiner is assigned to the divisional application, a significant loss of PTO efficiency will result

in his examination of the divisional case. After all, the present Examiner will be the individual in the best position to examine all applications and he will be fully familiar with the subject matter of the divisional application.

Therefore, since the only logical outcome of the present restriction requirement would be to delay the examination of the claims included in Group II, resulting in inefficiencies on the part of the Office and unnecessary expenditures by applicants, and since a single search can be done for all claims without any significant burden on the Office, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement between Group I and II be withdrawn.

The withdrawal of the instant restriction requirement between the claims of Group I and the claims of Group II, and examination of all of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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